

November 8, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Stuart A. Richards Branch Chief
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of Inspection Program Management
Inspection Program Branch

FROM: Peter Koltay, Senior Operations Engineer */RA/*
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of Inspection Program Management
Inspection Program Branch

SUBJECT: FOREIGN TRAVEL TRIP REPORT

The attached trip report summarizes my travel to the offices of the State Office For Nuclear Safety of the Czech Republic located in Prague from October 10 - 13, 2004 to participate in the 28th meeting of the OECD/NEA/CNRA Working Group on Inspection Practices (WGIP).

I represented the USNRC as temporary participant to maintain continuity with the group while a permanent member is identified for the assignment.

Formal minutes of this meeting will be issued at a later date by the NEA/CNRA/WGIP Secretariat.

Attachment: Trip Report

CONTACT: Peter Koltay, NRR/DIPM/IIPM
415-0213

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DATE	11/04/2004	11/03/2004

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NRC FOREIGN TRIP REPORT

Subject

The Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) established the special Working Group on Inspection Practices (WGIP) to facilitate the exchange of information and experience between CNRA member countries related to regulatory safety inspections. Focusing on CNRA approved inspection topics, WGIP members formulate commendable inspection practices grouped into subject fields and publish reports made available to member countries.

Dates of Travel and Countries/Organizations Visited

10/10/2004 to 10/13/2004
Prague, Czech Republic
Offices of SUJB

Author, Title, and Agency Affiliation

Mr. Peter Koltay, Senior Operations Engineer,
Inspection Program Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
USNRC

Sensitivity not applicable

Background/Purpose

A USNRC representative has participated on the NEA Working Group on Inspection Practices and associated workshops since 1991. Since Mr. Douglas Coe completed his permanent assignment to the group in 2003, NRC representation on the WGIP has been on a temporary assignment basis.

Abstract: Summary of Pertinent Points/Issues

WGIP Program of Work (Ongoing work as guided by CNRA)

Commendable Inspection Practices. (Draft Summary Report of all WGIP Work)
Previously, based on workshop and meeting topics these practices have been identified but not collectively published. Decision was made to combine all commendable inspection practices into a single report. The draft of the report was reviewed by the group and will be provided to CNRA at their next meeting.

Regulatory Inspection Practices Used to Bring About Compliance. (Draft Report)
The final draft before presentation to CNRA, was discussed. A statement was added identifying the importance of engaging the licensees at all levels of hierarchy from workers to management, as important to enhancing plant safety. The document continues to include language that promotes "providing advice" to licensees.

Inspection of Siting, Construction, Commissioning, and Major Modifications. (Draft Report)
The draft report consolidating responses to a survey by responding members (response by members is voluntary) will be placed on the WGIP website to afford additional time for review and evaluation before being discussed again at the January 2005 meeting.

Inspection Effort. (Task)

This task examines inspection programs of all member countries and will identify best practices. The group determined the current survey did not solicit the responses necessary to develop a draft report on the subject. Based on the numerous comments, the survey will be reissued in November 2004.

Status Report on Regulatory Inspection Philosophy, Inspection Organization and Inspection Practices. (Draft Report)

The revision of the 2001 document is in final draft. Last chance to comment by January 2005.

Effectiveness of the Work of WGIP. (Discussion)

The group reasserted the need to assure periodically that it continues to conform to the CNRA mandate and examined methods by which its products including workshops contain value added for member countries; and to assume that the value of workshops as well as their attendance are well promoted.

Next WGIP International Workshop - Tokyo, Japan January 24 - 25, 2005, hosted by JNES.

The meeting will precede the NEA/IAEA workshop on Safety Management and the Effectiveness of Inspections. The meeting will include a Technical Visit to the Shika NPP, Unit 2, ABWR.

Discussion

Detailed minutes of the meeting will be provided by the NEA/WGIP Secretariat at a later date.

HIGHLIGHTS from individual member reports:

IAEA - International Conference On Topical Issues, Continuous Improvement of Nuclear Safety in a Changing World, October 18-22, 2004 Beijing.

Hungary - Paks event (damaged ex-core fuel during cleaning) was INES 3. The schedule for the removal of the damaged fuel has been delayed approximately 6 months, to October 2005. A Unit 2 startup test program has been developed. The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) was reorganized as of September 2004, establishing a Department of Inspection.

Sweden - plans for safety inspections during decommissioning are being formulated. The regulatory process will be maintained for one year after decommissioning. Fuel will be shipped to a central wet storage facility. Only one plant has been shutdown so far with this purpose. All other plants are being upgraded.

Korea - as an item of interest, all regulatory inspections at the plants take place during refueling outages. Detached thermal sleeve from the cold leg RTD well had to be recovered from the reactor vessel.

Other specific reports of technical interest will be distributed to appropriate persons within NRC.

Pending Actions/Planned Next Steps for NRC

NRC participants in the WGIP International Workshop titled "Risk Informed Inspections, Inspection of Performance of Licensee Organizations, and Inspection Aspects of Plant Near or At End-Of-Life", April 26 - 29, Hungary, should review and comment on the draft report of the proceedings by November 15, 2004.

Next WGIP meeting is scheduled for January 24-25, 2005, Tokyo, Japan.

No other specific followup actions are needed other than continued active participation in WGIP

program of work.

Points for Commission Consideration/Items of Interest

No Commission action items were identified, nor were there any items of high interest.

Attachments

None